

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

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CU/ARA - MS. SALISBURY

CU/IVP/RC - MR. PEARSON

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R 211939Z SEP 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY QUITO

INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, EC

SUBJECT: US VISIT OF GENERAL AND MRS. DURAN: FOREIGN
MINISTRY COMPLAINT

REFS: (A) QUITO 6366; (B) QUITO 6539

1. THE EMBASSY MAY USE WHATEVER OF THE FOLLOWING IT CON-
SIDERS APPROPRIATE IN REPLYING TO FOREIGN MINISTER PESAN-
TES' NOTE:

A. "AMPLE TIME" WAS NOT PROVIDED THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
WHICH DID NOT RECEIVE THE EMBASSY OF ECUADOR'S NOTE UNTIL
THE DAY BEFORE GENERAL DURAN'S ARRIVAL IN THE UNITED STATES.
30 HOURS NOTICE IS INSUFFICIENT TIME FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF
STATE TO PREPARE FOR SUCH A VISIT AND TO SEEK TO PROVIDE A
PERSONAL SECURITY DETAIL SUCH AS THE ONE REQUESTED BY THE
GOE.

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B. NEVERTHELESS, DESPITE THE LACK OF AMPLE TIME TO PREPARE FOR THE VISIT, THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE WAS ABLE TO PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING:

(1) COURTESIES OF THE PORT OF NEW YORK CITY ON ARRIVAL, WHEREBY GENERAL DURAN WAS GIVEN VIP TREATMENT IN PROCESSING

THROUGH US CUSTOMS AND THROUGH US IMMIGRATION;

(2) A POLICE ESCORT TO NEW YORK CITY;

(3) NOTIFICATION OF GENERAL DURAN'S ITINERARY TO THE US FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, THE US FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION, AND THE POLICE DEPARTMENTS OF NEW YORK CITY AND CLEVELAND; AND

(4) VIP TREATMENT BY ECUATORIANA AIRLINES IN NEW YORK CITY ON DEPARTURE, WHICH WAS SPECIALLY REQUESTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE WHEN THE LATTER DISCOVERED THAT NO COURTESIES OF THE PORT ARE OFFERED FOR THE DEPARTURES OF VIPS.

C. IT IS TRUE THAT NO ONE FROM THE DEPARTMENT'S TWO-MAN RECEPTION STAFF IN NEW YORK CITY WENT TO GREET GENERAL DURAN, BUT THAT WAS DUE TO A MISUNDERSTANDING: THE OFFICER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE WHO ARRANGED ALL THE ABOVE-MENTIONED FOR GENERAL DURAN ASSUMED THAT "COURTESIES OF THE PORT" INCLUDED AN OFFICIAL GREETER, WHICH IT DOES NOT. RECEPTION CENTER PERSONNEL ARE VERY COOPERATIVE ABOUT MEETING DISTINGUISHED VISITORS DURING NORMAL WORKING HOURS BUT CANNOT PERFORM THIS SERVICE INVARIABLY OR ON A ROUND-THE-CLOCK BASIS. IN ANY EVENT, TO AFFORD THE DEPARTMENT, THE RECEPTION CENTER, AND OTHERS ADEQUATE TIME TO ARRANGE APPROPRIATE ATTENTION AND COURTESIES, THE GOE SHOULD GIVE THE DEPARTMENT AT LEAST ONE WEEK'S NOTICE WHENEVER A DISTINGUISHED ECUADOREAN VISITOR COMES TO THE UNITED STATES IN THE FUTURE FOR ANY LENGTH OF TIME. EVEN WITH A WEEK'S NOTICE, THE RECEPTION CENTER STAFF CAN MEET VIPS ON UNOFFICIAL VISITS ONLY ON AN "AS AVAILABLE" BASIS, WHEN NOT OTHERWISE OCCUPIED WITH MEETING OFFICIAL VISITORS. THE DEPARTMENT ALSO REQUESTS THE GOE TO PROVIDE THE FOLLOW-

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ING INFORMATION ABOUT SUCH VISITS: (THE EMBASSY MAY PARAPHRASE THE INFORMATION IN PARAGRAPH TWO, ADDING FLIGHT NUMBERS, ETAS, AND ETDS).

2. FYI: SEPTEMBER 10 AND 13 THE GOE DID IT ALL OVER AGAIN. AT 1300 EDT SEPTEMBER 10, A FRIDAY, COUNTRY OFFICER ALLITTO WAS TOLD BY ECUADOREAN AMBASSADOR CARDENAS THAT MRS. DURAN WAS DUE TO ARRIVE IN NEW YORK CITY ON SEPTEMBER 12, AND

THAT THE GOE WAS REQUESTING APPROPRIATE COURTESIES AND SECURITY THROUGHOUT HER STAY. CARDENAS, HOWEVER, DID NOT KNOW THE FOLLOWING: WHETHER MRS. DURAN WAS STAYING OVERNIGHT IN NEW YORK CITY OR GOING DIRECTLY TO BOSTON, HER ADDRESS IN NEW YORK CITY, HER ADDRESS IN BOSTON, HER ADDRESS IN CLEVELAND, HOW LONG SHE WOULD BE STAYING IN ALL THREE CITIES, EXACTLY WHAT SHE WOULD BE DOING, WHO WOULD BE

ACCOMPANYING HER, AND IF SO, WHETHER OR NOT THEY WOULD BE ARMED - ALL OF WHICH IS MUST-HAVE INFORMATION IN ORDER TO PROVIDE WHAT THE GOE WANTED.

3. NEVERTHELESS, ALLITTO ARRANGED ALMOST THE SAME THING FOR MRS. DURAN AS FOR GENERAL DURAN: 1B, (1) AND (3) ABOVE (MINUS CLEVELAND), PLUS ECUATORIANA AIRLINE'S MANAGER FOR NEW YORK CITY AGREED TO GREET MRS. DURAN AND MAKE CERTAIN SHE GOT VIP TREATMENT ON ARRIVAL. MRS. DURAN, HOWEVER, WAS NOT MET BY ANYONE FROM THE NEW YORK RECEPTION CENTER BECAUSE THAT OVERWORKED OFFICE IS CURRENTLY SUFFERING THROUGH ITS HEAVIEST WORKLOAD OF THE YEAR. SEPTEMBER 12, FOR EXAMPLE, NINE DIFFERENT FLIGHTS HAD TO BE MET AT JFK FROM 0500 TO 1900 BECAUSE OFFICIAL GUESTS OF THE USG HAD TO BE MET. NO UNOFFICIAL VISITORS, INCLUDING MRS. DURAN, COULD BE MET THAT DAY DUE TO THE HEAVY WORKLOAD AND THE SHORTAGE OF PERSONNEL.

4. ALLITTO EXPLAINED THOSE POINTS TO CARDENAS AND ASKED HIM TO ASK THE GOE TO GIVE THE DEPARTMENT MORE NOTICE IN THE FUTURE. THE DEPARTMENT WILL FOLLOW UP THAT APPROACH WITH A FORMAL NOTE. THIS IS TO ALERT YOU IN CASE YOU WISH TO HEAD OFF ANOTHER COMPLAINT BY INCLUDING THE FACTS OF MRS. DURAN'S AND MRS. POVEDA'S ARRIVAL (SEE PARAGRAPH FIVE) IN YOUR REPLY TO PESANTES, AND SO YOU WILL UNDERSTAND WHY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE DEPARTMENT ASKS THAT YOU BE SURE TO INCLUDE IN YOUR REPLY THE DEPARTMENT'S REQUEST OF AT LEAST ONE WEEK'S NOTICE FOR ANY SIMILAR VISITS IN THE FUTURE. YOU MAY WISH TO MENTION THAT THE DEPARTMENT IS SENDING A NOTE TO THE ECUADOREAN EMBASSY CONCERNING THIS SUBJECT.

5. FOR MRS. POVEDA' WE ARRANGED THE SAME THING AS FOR MRS. DURAN, MINUS THE ECUATORIANA VIP TREATMENT, WHICH MAY HAVE BEEN GIVEN ANYWAY IF ECUATORIANA WAS ALERT.

6. ALSO FYI: AT 1330 EDT SEPTEMBER 10, A FRIDAY, ECUADOREAN MINISTER ALMEIDA CALLED ALLITTO TO REQUEST A SHIP CLEARANCE FOR THE PANAMA CANAL ZONE FOR 0800 SEPTEMBER 13, A MONDAY. GREAT PLANNERS THE ECUADOREANS ARE NOT; ROBINSON

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